MD

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/PSD.5/52
10 December 1987

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-28 March 1987

LC/NAIROBI.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE INTEGRATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN AFRICA

Moscow, USSR, 7-14 September 1987

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The Working Group on Possible Approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa met in Moscow, USSR, from 7 to 14 September 1987. The meeting was convened with the financial support of the USSR Government through the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. The First Vice-Chairman of the State Committee of USSR for Statistics opened the meeting. Messages from the Director of Statistics Division of the ECA and from the Chief of External Relations, State Committee of the USSR for External Economic relations were communicated at the opening session.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by eighteen African experts, invited in their individual capacities, and came from the following countries: Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Representatives of the USSR and CMEA also attended the meeting.

Election of Officers

3. Mr. Mwaniki (Kenya) was elected Chairman of the Working Group, with Mrs. Fatoumata Sidibe Dicko (Mali) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Zmanay (Mauritius) as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

4. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening Address
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. African experiences in the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning (country papers)
5. Data requirements in development planning
   a) Types of demographic and social statistics required for development planning in African countries;
   b) USSR experiences:
      i) Demographic forecasting
      ii) Social development indexes
      iii) Manpower
      iv) Environmental statistics

6. Co-ordination in the development of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics for planning:

   a) Framework for the integration of data in African countries;

   b) Interlinking of data from different sources;

   c) Establishment of a statistical data base in African countries;

   d) Organization of statistical information: collection and processing and the place of automated system of state statistics (ASSS) in the framework of all-union information system (USSR experience);

   e) Institutional framework in African countries.

7. Applications of integrated demographic, social and related economic variables in planning:

   a) Social accounting matrices as a tool for integration of demographic, social and related economic variables inpplanning (case study);

   b) System of national economic balances and their integrating role in socio-economic statistics (USSR experience);

   c) Use of indexes of demographic, social and related economic statistics in planning (USSR experience).

8. Other business

9. Recommendations

10. Evaluation of the working group

11. Adoption of the report

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening address (agenda Item 1)

5. Welcoming the participants of the Working Group, Meeting Mr. N.G. Belov, the First Vice-Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Statistics expressed his conviction that the work of the Group will help to reveal new opportunities to extend the utilization of statistical data in planning social and economic development, to achieve progress and to improve living standards. He also reviewed problems facing Soviet statisticians, outlined concrete indicators based on regular accounting of the enterprises, censuses and sample surveys.

6. Mr. Belov, dwelt upon the current restructuring of the country aimed at the acceleration of social development. Restructuring was under-way in planning and statistics. Constructively new principles underlied the Draft State Plan for 1988, i.e. all the indicators irrelevant for the national economy were excluded from the plan. Concrete guidelines were worked out for the radical reconstruction of the State statistics to bring it in line with current situation. This had been done to enhance the role of statistics while making them more important tools for economic analysis and ensure the proper functioning of the national economy. This would be

supported by further improvement in the computerized state statistical system. Within the vast complex of statistical studies much importance had been attached to population statistics. The preparations for the forthcoming All-Union census programmed for January 1989 were in progress.

7. Mr. Belov spoke on the development of demographic indices in Africa, on the discussions at the UN International Conference on Population (Mexico, 1984) and its recommendations. He drew attention of the Group members to the appeal made by the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mr. M.S. Gorbachev to the participants in the International Conference on Disarmament and Development. He also mentioned the proposal of the USSR to support the International Fund on "Disarmament for Development" under the auspices of UN.

8. In conclusion he pointed out that the results of the discussion at this Meeting would encourage further improvement of the quality of statistics, ensure international compatibility and promote further collaboration between the countries for the sake of peace and social progress.

9. The message from the Chief of Statistics Division of ECA which was read at the opening session stated that the Lagos Plan of Action, adopted in 1980 by the Heads of State and Government, established a new regional strategy of development for Africa with emphasis on the welfare of the people. He pointed out that this new concept of development calls for new planning methodologies hence a wider range of statistical data such as demographic and social data which are going to play the same key role in the planning process.

10. He mentioned the importance of developing reliable statistical series which are complementary i.e. integrated statistics and so the need for collaboration between on the one hand the different producers of statistical data and on the other the users of statistical data in order to develop better development plans in Africa.

11. He also stressed that this collaboration will be further strengthned by this working group which brings together African experts in the fields of Statistics, Demography and Planning. The experts will review important issues on the African experiences in the various approaches in the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning, the coordination in the development of integrated socio-economic statistics for planning and the application of integrated demographic, social and economic statistics in planning.

12. Finally, he thanked the USSR Government for hosting this working group and the provision of the necessary funding through the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. He also thanked the State Committee of the USSR for Statistics for the excellent organization of the meeting.

<u>African experiences in the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning</u> - Country papers (Item 4)

13. The various delegations presented their country's experience in the integration of demographic social and related statistics in development planning.

14. The delegation from Madagascar highlighted the dearth of reliable statistics in the country's planning process due to the absence of commitment on the part of economic operators to supply information to the central authorities. As a result planners had to make guess estimates which very often were not true reflection of realities. Planning became thus quite a difficult task. There was a need for better co-ordination between statisticians and planners. The cost of censuses and surveys was high and made regular taking of censuses and surveys quite expensive and very often outside the means of the country. It was suggested that cheaper means of data collection be sought, particularly from administrative records.

15. The delegation from Rwanda also harped on the problem of lack of reliable and timely statistics. Very often statistics supplied by technical ministries were overestimates and had to be adjusted by the planners. Rwanda started demographic surveys in 1970 and conducted its first housing and population census in the late 1970s. Statistics on employment in the informal sector were lacking and civil status data deficient. The high cost of collecting data was emphasised. The involvement of people in the planning process at the grassroot level was also mentioned.

16. The delegate from Zambia explained the efforts made by his country to gradually integrated demographic and social statistics in its development plans. He described the institutional set up created for that purpose in particular the creation of the Population, Manpower and Research Unit and the operations of the Department of Census and Statistics within the National Commission for Development Planning. The common problem of non-availability of statistical data and delays in response to questionnaires and in data processing were brought up. However, cooperation between statisticians and planners was good and augured well for the future.

17. The delegation from Mali made a strong case for the integration of demographic variables in the planning process. The absence of reliable data made this task difficult and very often the data-base was outdated thus distorting realities leading to weaknesses in the formulation of development plans. The situation was further, complicated by factors such as migration due to climatic conditions, the size of the country, regional disparities and so on. It was also difficult to obtain data on the informal sector and in addition statistics provided by different sources could not be aggregated due to the absence of a harmonised statistical system. The problem had partly been solved through the conduct of surveys and censuses and the reorganization of the civil status network. The task of coordination had been further facilitated by the deputation of high level statisticians and economists from the planning ministry to the various ministries to allow the adequate feedback and harmonization in data capture. A Population Section had also been created in the planning ministry to work out population policies and to foster the development of human resources. The planning process had been decentralised with participation at grassroot level right from the inception to the implementation stage. This regionalisation process was at its pilot phase and, though promising, it was too early to gauge its success and to get an indication of its cost implications.

18. The delegation from Senegal described the evolution of planning in the country since 1960 and the attempts made to collect demographic data for inclusion in the various development plans. There had been overemphasis on economic and financial variables in the planning process, in particular in the context of the structural

adjustment programme with IMF and IBRD, thus neglecting the demographic and social aspects of development. There were also delays in data processing and analysis resulting in an insufficient and outdated data base. The problem had been further complicated by such factors as internal migration. It was noted, however, that with computerisation and modern data processing technology, improvement in data collection was expected. On the planning side efforts were being made to formulate population policies and in the use of demographic forecasting models.

19. The delegation from Benin spoke on the efforts made by the "Direction de la Planification d'Etat" and the "Institut National de Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique" to improve on demographic data collection and the integration of demographic and social variables in the planning process. In this context Benin had carried out demographic surveys, household budget surveys and a housing and population census which provided data for inclusion in the country's development plans. The country adopted a decentralised system of collection of statistics with the creation of special units at the level of the regional authorities. The integration of demographic and social statistics in development was receiving the full support of the government.

20. The delegation from Ethiopia described the planning process that existed in the country. The system was based on the principle of democratic centralism and culminated with the Planning Committee chaired by the Head of the State until recently. The Central Statistical Office had been undertaking censuses and surveys on various aspect of social demographic and economic activities and the data were incorporated in the development plans. Demographic, social and related statistics had been used in planning for the provision of infrastructure and social services such as education, health and so on. The problem of inadequacy of administrative records and delays in getting census results was also mentioned.

21. The delegation from Mauritius reported that as far as Mauritius was concerned there was no problem in the integration of demographic and social statistics in the country's development plans. The country had a long history of census taking and this exercise which started in 1846 had been repeated on a ten-year basis. Further the country had a good civil status network to supplement census data. The collection of data through surveys and censuses was also facilitated by the provision of the Statistics Act and the collaboration of suppliers of information such as producers' associations, employers' federation and so on. The country had therefore, a good data base for planning and statisticians and planners collaborated at all stages of the planning process.

22. The delegation from Zimbabwe made reference to the dualistic nature of the economy. During the colonial era the modern sector had been receiving adequate coverage while there was a complete lack of statistics on the traditional and informal sector. The National Planning Commission was the apex organisation for the planning exercise and the Head of Planning and the Head of Statistics report to the same Permanent Secretary resulting in effective coordination of activity. The country had carried out a National Manpower Survey to take stock of existing skills and the needs

of industry as well as a National Household Capability Survey Programme to survey the previously neglected sectors. A Population Planning Unit in the Central Statistical Office was also created and provided indices in the demographic field. The demographic and social data that were collected had been included in Zimbabwe's blue-print "Growth with Equity".

23. The Working Group during discussions of the various country papers took note of the absence of reliable demographic and social statistics on the African continent. This was a serious impediment in the drawing up of viable development plans. The Working Group proposed that African Governments should accelerate their process of collection and utilization of demographic and social statistics for planning purposes. In this endeavour they recommended closer collaboration between statisticians and the users of statistics, in particular the development planners.

Data Requirements in Development Planning (Agenda item 5)

The types of demographic and social statistics required for development planning in African countries (Item 5(a))

24. A member of the ECA secretariat in introducing this agenda item remarked that this agenda item was intended to set the stage for the discussion on possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa by not only providing an opportunity for the review of the types of demographic and social statistics required in development planning in Africa, but, also their uses and the data collection systems needed to generate the information. The speaker observed that the discussion should be set against the background of the recent conceptualization of development and the need for development planning to address contemporary African problem such as unemployment, environment degradation and the economic and social impact of structural adjustment.

25. He referred to two particular uses of demographic data, namely, providing the quantitative basis for planning and facilitating the integration of demographic variables in development planning. The representative of the Secretariat explained that population censuses, household sample surveys and administrative records, particularly when they satisfy the conditions of common definitions, classification and concepts, should play an important role in generating the needed demographic and social statistics for development planning.

26. He categorized the types of demographic and social statistics required in development planning in African countries as follows: demographic statistics: data on the size, economic and social composition, geographical distribution and role of growth of the population; current levels and trends of fertility, mortality and migration; and population projections. With respect to social statistics, they included data on health, education, housing and employment.

27. In the discussion that followed the presentation of the paper, participants drew attention to the following topics: (a) strategies and measures to strengthen statistical and planning offices; (b) the requirement not to collect unnecessary statistics, and (c) the need to maintain a constant dialogue between planners and statisticians and/or planning and statistical offices. Participants also provided their country experiences in the uses of demographic and social statistics in development planning.

28. With respect to (a), the high turnover of statisticians in African countries was noted and remedial measures especially making conditions of service attractive for them were recommended. Relative to (b), the Secretariat noted that one strategy to adopt in order not to collect unnecessary statistics was to utilize a work programme which assessed the availability as well as the need for statistics required for development planning. With reference to the last query, the Secretariat endorsed the proposal that a continuing dialogue should be maintained between planners and statisticians and/or planning offices and statistical offices. A recommendation was made in this regard with a view to meeting data requirements for development planning.

USSR Experience (item 5(b))
Demographic forecasting

29. The methodology used in state statistics to forecast population was presented in the paper (WG/DSS/87.2).

30. The basic principles used for the determination of population characteristics were outlined. Using the available statistical data as well as data collected from censuses and special surveys, a list of indices for each separate population groups was computed. Specific feature in the calculation of demographic indicators in the USSR related to the inclusion of internal migration from the rural to the urban areas in the demographic estimates.

31. The basic formulae for the calculation of population indicators and forecasts were explained. It was pointed out that computers were used for demographic predictions and the computer programmes were being permanently perfected.

32. Population data were worked out at various levels starting from the regions to the Union Republics and finally at the level of the whole country.

33. The report gave the guidelines used for the calculation of population parameters for small territories given that they had their own peculiarities. The results obtained for small territoires should, however, be consistent with calculations made for the other regions.

34. Updating of population projections was on a regular basis while firm figures relating to population characteristics were obtained from population censuses.

35. The document on demographic forecasting in the USSR aroused great interest among the participants. The discussion focused mainly on the following subjects: the estimation of input data quality on births, deaths and migration rates, the accuracy of demographic projections, the population accounting system in the USSR. The participants commended the USSR experience in demographic projection and in the integration of population data in the fulfilment of the goals for social and economic development. They drew attention to the problems that African countries were facing in the collection of reliable data on population migration. Thus reducing the reliability of demographic statistics where such phenomenon occured. The difficulties encountered in population count of nomadic tribes were raised. This explained the special interest shown by the participants to the USSR experience on internal migration statistics.

36. Much attention was paid on the recent positive demographic tendencies taking place in the USSR, in particular with regards to birth rates and the adoption of the special policy to help families with many children. The question concerning the reduction in the production and consumption of alcohol, its impact ontthe death rate and the reduction of deaths due to accidents, traumas and poisoning was discussed. The speaker also provided explanations on family planning in the USSR.

Social Development Indexes

37. The USSR representatives then briefly highlighted the problems of social statistics as regards the resolutions of the XXVIIth CPSU Congress and the guidelines given for its improvement in the context of the restructuring of USSR's planning and administration systems. They spoke of the system of social statistics indexes and their harmonization with the system of the state plan indices.

38. The basic principles for evolving a statistical data base were laid out in the plan on "Social development and improvement of the peoples welfare". The organizational set-up and methodology for collecting and processing statistical information at all levels of state statistical agencies were described.

39. They also highlighted the issues concerning the organization of ad hoc surveys relating to labour resources studies. Budget surveys, they said, were carried out by qualified specialists on collective-farm families.

40. They discussed in detail the practical aspects of public opinion survey on the professional orientation of young people, as well as the social aspects of organizing team work for pensioners and so on. The efforts of the state statistical agencies to improve social statistics (the system of indexes, the methodology, the economic analysis, 'glasnost" and so on in the implementation of the resolution of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU on June 1987 were highlighted.

41. In the course of discussion of the paper the participants showed keen interest in the operation of the statistical service in the USSR, its structure and its methods of collecting data from primary sources, i.e. enterprises, institutions and so on. The data supplied by the enterprises to local statistical services were processed and consolidated for respective areas and sectors. Computers were being used for that purpose. The methodological instructions for the filling of the questionnaires were developed by GOSKOMSTAT and disseminated among ministries and agencies who in uturn forwarded them to the enterprises and institutions.

42. The participants enquired about the statistics on social services such as health care, education, leisure, etc. as well as services offered to the population for payment. The participants showed interest in the index of prices for services as calculated from household budget surveys.

43. The participants exchanged views on the various aspects of social statistics i.e. on the problems of classifications, nomenclatures and codes as well as on the harmonisation of the statistics with data contained in the other documents issued by GOSKOMSTAT of the USSR, the GOSPLAN, the GOSKOMTRUD, the MINFIN and other agencies.

Family budget survey

44. In presenting the paper WG/DSS/87.3.Add.1, the Head of Family Budget Statistics department of the State Committee for Statistics stated that during the last 8 years the State Committee on Statistics had prepared and carried out more than 80 sample surveys in different branches of the national economy such as agriculture, industry, housing construction, trade, labour, etc. In January 1985 a demographic sample survey was carried out covering about 5 per cent of the population.

45. The annual surveys provided more than 2,000 indices and were thus of great importance in demographic analysis. Once every 5 years sample surveys of incomes and housing conditions were carried out among 310,000 families.

46. The budget surveys are representative of different population categories, distributed over the whole country by Union Republics, by economic regions and by branches of national economy with breakdown by size and income levels. They thus provide information by income and expenditure levels on food consumption, communal services, housing conditions, family composition, employment and other social characteristics. The data illustrate the rol of different sources of income, relationships between consumption and income levels, and enabled the study of changes in consumer requirements, etc.

47. In this connection budget surveys besides displaying characteristics of living standards for different social groups, were also widely used in different economic computations. Lately they were also being widely used for obtaining data on public opinion over the whole country.

48. The discussion was centered mainly on the study of special population groups. The participants enquired about the conduct of survey among old-aged people. In this connection it was mentioned that in the USSR every year sample surveys of about 2,200 pensioners families were conducted, and once in every 3 years the size was increased to 12,000. The method of selection was also the subject of discussion. It was stated that a two-stage design was usually employed. For example in theccase of workers the organization was the first stage and the workers in the selected organization were the second stage.

49. Some of the participants paid attention to the accounting of private (ord individual) incomes. This type of data was also obtained during the studies of family budgets, as the families did not usually hide this information and were prepared to reveal whether they acquired some foods or services privately. The participants also enquired about agricultural activities such as crops areas, cattle number, housing conditions, etc.

Manpower

50. In introducing the background document WG/DSS/87.4, the Head, Labour and Wages Statistics Division, USSR, informed the meeting that in the USSR statistical study of rational utilizationo of labour resources was carried out on the basis of regular and uniform labour accounting and also sample surveys.

51. The speaker observed that Soviet labour statistics was organized around multilateral analysis of the amount, composition and distribution of labour resources throughout the country, regionwise, among ministries and national economy branches. At the present time the analysis includes: control over the fulfilment of planned work, the level of employment, distribution of the employed population versus separate categories, the mechanization level, qualification, sex, age and work record composition of the employed and some other trends.

52. She noted that under planning socialist national economy one of the most important functions of state statistics is control over the fulfilment of the plan. The provision of annual information to the state bodies in the form of statistical indicators, she noted, was a vital function. Also, vast volume of information on non-planning indicators, namely these indicators characterizing the resourcesoof productivity growth (share of manual labour, time wastes, turnover, etc.) were also provided.

53. The USSR representative told the meeting that general proportions and trends of labour resources distribution throughout the country and types of employment were analysed with the help of labour resources balance from information from a number of branch statistics (i.e. labour, demography, education, industry, agriculture, etc..).

54. She observed that at the center of attention were questions concerning wages and salaries statistics as an extensive system of measures for gradual increasing of people's welfare was being elaborated in the USSR. Special one-time registrations were carried out to ascertain the results of their implementation. Besides, one in 5 years registrations occured in national economy as a whole to obtain data on labour resources distribution and wages. Using sample surveys the questions concerning differentiation in wages and salaries for certain specialities, depending on their contributiontto final results, were studied.

55. In the discussion that followed, participants drew attention to the experience of professional training of the workers, further education of personnel, introduction of standard labour planning method, statistical study of the unemployed population, solution of the problems concerning employment of productive forces, freed due to productivity growth, labour mechanization enchancement and introduction of new means of payment.

56. The participants agreed that rational and efficient employment was a task of primary importance in all the countries. Problems of "labour market" and "latent unemployment" were discussed. The necessity to compare national statistical data, characterising population employment and the productivity growth dynamics were noted. It was also mentioned that uniform technique while calculating these indices and international classificators should be applied.

57. Views were expressed about the role of trade unions in economic and social development of the country, labour turnover, the aged participation in the national economy and labour resources utilization. Participants acknowledged that and proposed improvement of statistical studies of foreign labour utilization.

Environmental statistics

58. The Head of the USSR National Resources and Environment Statistics Division introduced the document WG/DSS/87.5. The paper dealt with the scope and areas of environmental protection in the USSR, including the protection and the rational utilization of land, the organization and development of national reserves, the rational use of water consumption, the protection of the atmosphere against pollution and so on.

59. The paper also discussed the organizational and methodological aspects of environmental statistics in the USSR.

60. The system of environmental statistical indicators in the USSR was in full-compliance with the corresponding indicators of the State Plan. These indicators provided the agencies responsible for State Statistics of the USSR in exercising control over the implementation of the Plan and in ensuring the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources.

61. The paper also touched upon the practical aspects of environmental statistics; the questionnaires sent to the enterprises and institutions involved in the use of natural resources or producing harmful effects on the environment surveys on specific problems such as environmental damage caused by pollution, health hazards, were also carried out.

62. The environmental statistics were either collected centrally by the State Statistics Bodies or by ministries and departments. In the latter case the State Statistics Committee of the USSR exercised control over the quality of these statistics and on their timely compilation. These statistics were then disseminated to the agencies and to the public at large for policy decisions, research or for general information. The good results achieved in the field of environmental statistics were due to the concerted efforts of various agencies in the USSR.

63. During the discussions of the paper, the participants showed interest in the organization of environmental statistics in the USSR. The participants gave their country's experience on environmental issues and raised their concern on the inadequacy of environmental statistics.

64. There was agreement that due attention should be given to the issue of environmental statistics and to their inclusioniin the planning process.

65. Finally, it was agreed that the protection of the environment was a global problem to which all country should participate. thus the need to have a common approach to the problem.

Co-ordination in the development of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics for planning: (Agenda Item 6)

Framework for the integration of data in African countries (Item 6(a))

66. The representative of the ECA Secretariat made a presentation on document WG/DSS/87.6 concerning co-ordination of activities for the development of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning. He spoke of the commitment taken by African leaders in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Kilimanjaro Plan of Action and recently at the Abuja Declaration. It has been emphasized at these meetings that development planning should take into account not only the economic and financial aspects, but also the development of man and his environment. This, he said, explained the ECA's initiative to evolve a framework for the collection of social statistics and their integration.by emphasizing the interrelations of these data.

67. He indicated the need for and the usefulness of the framework in helping to coordinate activities for the improvement in the collection of statistics and the construction of socio-economic indicators. He mentioned also the major areas included in the framework and its structure.

68. He emphasized on the need for an integrated approach to this issue and to have an harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications for the African continent. Each African country should however be free to decide on the types and coverage of statistics to suit its own peculiarities and needs. He also spoke of a renewed interest to link demographic and social statistics with National Accounts. He also mentioned the increasing recourse to surveys, in particular household surveys, in the collection of integrated socio-economic data. In this connection, he drew attention to the African Household Survey Capability Programme which was being implemented with the collaboration of ECA and in which eighteen African countries were already participating. The representative from Kenya was invited to make a brief exposé on his country's experience in this programme.

69. During the discussions the participants fully supported the approach proposed by ECA, in particular the need for African to have a harmonized system. It was pointed out that demographic concepts as view by outside agencies, not conversant with African conditions, might not be appropriate to the African countries. By way of example, the definition of reproduction age was mentioned.

70. Emphasis was placed by participants on the needs to initiate action to develop a system of socio-economic indicators including environmental statistics and to harmonize their systems of data collection in particular when data were from different sources.

71. It was recommended that:

(a) ECA should initiate action to review progress in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action in the field of demographic and social statistics;

(b) Collaboration between producers of data should be reinforced with a view to harmonize as far as possible their concepts, definitions and classifications used in various surveys. Also African countries should be encouraged to organise regular meetings or contacts between data producers and users.

Interlinking of data from different sources (USSR Experiences) (Item 6(b))

72. This paper was introduced by the Head, Demography Division of the Research Institute of the USSR State Committee on Statistics Data on demographic statistics were collected from population censuses, current registration of demographic events and sample surveys of population. Countries could have recourse to administrative records, but the reliability of statistics collected in this manner would depend on the adequacy of registration system, the comptability of records from the various collectors, the use of a harmonised system of definition and so on. The achievement of such uniformity required the overcoming of certain traditional distinctions in the systems of registration, e.g. legal marriage status in the current registration of marriages and self-determination of marital status in censuses and surveys. Similar discrepancy appeared also when determining nationalities and other characteristics of the population. The experience in harmonizing programmes of census and current registration in the USSR 1979 yielded positive results though some problems remained unsolved. It was not always possible to achieve complete comptability in the number of events andtthe results of the censuses.

73. The USSR had acquired ample experience in the carrying out of anamestic surveys. The surveys, however, included only those alive at the time of their taking thus leading to incomptability with data from other surveys. Anamnestic surveys were however, important data source for analysing births/deaths among various social groups. Analysis of some processes could be carried out exclusively on the basis of current registration but it required data for a long period and probably only for confined population, which might not always be available. In the USSR aniintegrated system had been developed for information about population (ISIN) that would expand the possibility for the utilization of demographic data obtained from the various sources.

74. The participants commended the report for its comprehansiveness and its practical approach. They discussed about the techniques used for collecting data on births, mortality, migration rates and interrelationships between the statistical bodies responsible for primary sources. The aims and role of social-demographic studies were also discussed.

75. The collection of data on occupational death rate was discussed and it was agreed that such data were difficult to collect.

76. Some delegates showed interest in the techniques of collecting labour statistics on a regionwise basis. Such statistics could yield clear indications on labour availability on one hand, and the opportunities to distribute investment among the region.

Establishment of a Statistical data base in African countries (Item 6 (c))

77. The ECA representative presented the document WG/DSS/87.8 on the establishment of a statistical data base in African countries. As already pointed out in the previous papers, to ensure the proper integration of demographic, social and economic data in the planning process, he reemphasised the need to have a good and reliable statistical system which comprises the statistical production system and the statistical information system. He enumerated the various ways of collecting data and the way to do so in a systematic manner through the definition of a coherent set

of concepts, the establishment of links between data collected at different periods and the follow-up of the processes which help to establish National Accounts and social indicator systems. He also spoke of the integration of the statistical information which can be done through the establishment of a statistical data base.

78. There was a need also for constant dialogue between the statisticians, computer analysts and the users to ensure a common approach to the demographic and social issues. The system of a data bank could be effective, however, only with an appropriate management of the data base that guaranteed confidentiality, security of the data collected. The system had to be understood by non-statisticians to be effective. The various models in data management (hierarchical model and so on) were explained.

79. Finally, he drew attention to the cost implications of setting up such a data bank and recommended that this issue be looked into before the decision to set up such a data bank be taken.

80. During the discussions that followed it was evident that many African countries were resorting increasingly to computers for the storage and processing of statistical data. The problem arising from lack of personnel was brought up, and there were suggestions that training should be given to statisticians in the field of computing so that they could operate micro-computers for small activites. The substantial cost implications in operating computers were mentioned while some participants spoke of the lack of technical knowledge to select appropriate computing equipment.

81. Finally it was recommended that:

(a) Statisticians should be given training in modern data processing techniques in order to allow them to operate micro-computers, and if possible mini-computers;

(b) ECA should assist and reinforce its assistance in various areas such as the selection of computer equipment appropriate for the needs of African countries, bearing in mind the need for African countries to exchange information among themselves, the increase of ECA training programme and advisory missions on the establishment of data banks.

Mechanism of statistical information collection and processing: ASSS role in statewide information system (Item 6 (d))

82. The Chief of the "Soyuzmashinform" of the USSR State Committee on Statistics presented paper WG/DSS/87.9, and described the basic principles underlying the methodology of data collection and processing in state statistical bodies. The structure of the computing and statistical bodies at all administrative levels of the country was briefly outlined.

83. Authomated data processing was carried out within the framework of Automated State Statistical System (ASSS) of the State Committee on Statistics. ASSS possessed all the characteristics of a large computer system, namely informational and technical unity, standardization of procedures, adaptability, integrated data processing and readiness to cater for development. In the organization of the system of data processing an important role was played by All-Union Classification of Technical and Economic Information. The State Committee on Statistics was responsible for the elaboration and implementation of such a classification.

84. A very significant factor contributing to the efficient data collection and processing in a broad network of statistical bodies was the pursuing of uniform technical policy and the creation of programmes consistent with the technical base.

85. Collection and processing of accounting and survey data, based upon rational combinationoof centralized and decentralized pricessing of statistical information were also mentioned.

86. As electronic data processing was progressing, the interaction among ASSS, automated system of State Planning Committee and other ministries was being enhanced. Further ASSS was developing its joint functioning with CAMs of other ministries with the implementation of distributed databases, teleprocessing and the provision of statisticians conversant with computing techniques. All these measures were aimed at creating a better informational statistical system at all management levels and occupied an important place in the country wide informational system.

87. In the course of discussion the participants demonstrated great interest in data exchange on magnetic tapes, the use of communication channels, automated corrections, data banks, centralized and decentralized data processing.

88. It was noticed that computerization of mail questionnaires was registered on magnetic tapes and transmitted from regional to republican computing centers. The utilization of the same type of computer rendered this task possible. Control and editing of data were carried out at the reception stage and if any mistakes were detected the return is automatically referred back for corrections. Automated corrections were used mainly in the processing of data on socio-demographic surveys and censuses.

89. It was emphasized that automated data bank was the main component of the system, at tool for economic analysis and an important means of integration.

90. The problem of communications between data processing specialists and statisticianswwas still very acute. To avoid this problem the USSR State Committee on Statistics established the programme and determined the functions of experts at all stages of data processing project development. Software were created which allowed economists and statisticians to work with computers on "menu" basis.

91. It was also noticed that microcomputers development would facilitate statistical data processing decentralization.

Institutional coordination in the Development of Integrated Demographic, Social and related economic statistics for planning purposes in African countries (Item 6 (e))

92. A member of the ECA Secretariat in introducing the document WG/DSS/87.10 referred to the current situation in a number of African countries, where a variety of agencies separately collected and published statistical information. He gave the examples of civil registration for vital statistics and international migration for which different agencies were involved in the collection, processing and tabulation of the information. The problems of collecting, processing and tabulation by the Central Statistical Agency of Statistical information produced by government ministries were

also noted. In these situations, the lack of interagency cooperation, the speaker observed, resulted in the adoption of different statistical standards, concepts classifications and definitions, which created problems for the integration of data.

93. The speaker reviewed various strategies and measures for achieving institutional coordination. In this context, he pointed out that the Central Statistical Agency should play a leading role by developing guidelines on the methodology of censuses and surveys including the standardization of concepts, definitions and classifications, paying due regard to international recommendations on these matters. He also proposed the creation of a Statistical Board or Committee, which would be responsible for reviewingtthe policies and work programmes of the National Statistical Office. The technical committee of the Statistical Board or Committee should include experts who should be responsible for reviewing the technical aspects of statistical undertakings such as censuses and surveys. A similar committee was also recommended to be created for data collection, processing and tabulation activities involving many agencies such as civil registration/vital statistics.

94. In the discussions that followed by the presentation country experiences pertaining to the problems and solutions of co-ordination were highlighted. An example of informal types characterized not by committees but continuous dialogue between the Statistical Offices and other government ministries involved in the production of statistics was cited.

95. The participants recommended:

(a) the creation of centralised statistical agencies as one important means of promoting co-ordination in the production of statistics among government ministries; and

(b) a study by ECA of the special problems posed by government ministries other than the central statistical agency and private organizations independently collecting statistics and suggest solutions which would facilitate co-ordination of concepts, classification, definition and methodology.

Applications of integrated demographic, social and related economic variables in planning (Agenda Item 7)

Social accounting matrices (SAM) as a tool for integration of demographic, social and related economic variables in planning (case study) (Item 7 (a))

96. The document WG/DSS/37.11 on 'Social Accounting Matrices, as instruments for the integration of demographic, social and economic variables in development planning" was presented by the ECA Secretariat. The speaker said that the SAM was introduced to satisfy the needs to incorporate the demographic and social dimensions in development planning. He explained the methodology underlying the construction of SAM and elaborated on its various components, namely: (i) the current accounts comprising the account "factor of production"; (ii) the capital accounts of domestic distributions and of the rest of the world and (iii) the financial accounts. He highlighted the flexibility in the operationoof the SAMs, which allowed for disaggregation of the accounts. Two factors of production (capital and labour) and four institutional categories (households, enterprises, public administration and the rest of the world) had been identified. Indirect taxes had been included given its weight in the revenue side of the African countries.

97. The document also contained an explanation on how to test different economic scenarios in the planning process. Demographic and social variables could be integrated in the SAMs and could include such areas like the distribution of factors of production by geographic location, size of enterprises, revenue taxes, ownership of enterprises and so on.

98. The traditional sources of information i.e. (i) the national accounts, (ii) households budget surveys, (iii) the public budget, (iv) external trade statistics and (vi) financial statistics would not be adequate for the construction of the sSAM. Additional information would need to be sought through surveys and the design of such surveys should involve the statisticians, planners, sociologists and so on.

99. Problems encountered in the construction of SAMs included (i) inadequate data (ii) lack of financial resources and (iii) the utilisation of other models in the economy. He suggested ways to overcome these problems.

100. The participants concurred with the ECA that the SAM could be a good instrument for the integration of demographic and social considerations in the planning exercise. The SAM methodology was quite complicated and some of the participants said that the introduction of the SAM would have to wait until the countries established a social data base and improve their data collection capability. The participants, however, were confident that the SAM could be a good model for the African countries and recommended that the ECA should continue its efforts to disseminate the sSAM among the member States.

System of national economic balances and their integration in socio-economic statistics (USSR experience) (Item 7 (b))

101. The document WG/DSS/87.12 on "The System of Balance of the National Economy (BNE), its integrating role in the Social and economic statistics and some problems in the Intersystem Comparison between the BNE and SNA indicators" was presented by a representative of the USSR Department of the Balance of the National Economy.

102. The speaker gave a description of the BNE which was the system utilised by the USSR to measure production and the rate of its development as well as the relationships between the various economic and social parameters. The BNE allowed for inter-industry transactions and provided a suitable measure of the growth of wealth in the USSR.

103. The use of various indices to measure changes in the economy in different activities e.g. production versus consumption, utilisation of materials versus output were explained. The balances of the national economy related to (i) social product and expenditures (ii) distribution of social product and national income (iii) the balance of fixed capital and national wealth and (iv) the manpower balance showing availability and utilisation of manpower resources in the economy.

104. The speaker outlined the various stages in the compilation of the BNE and attempts made to improve on its unsefulness. He explained the problems encountered in the preparation of the BNE and the problem of comparison between the BNE and the SNA. The two systems were being used in two different types of economy and these were drawbacks in the comparison of the two methods given that the theoritical basis behind these two were of differnt nature.

105. The main theme during the discussion related to the impact of inflation on the indices. The speaker pointed out that intthe computation of the indices reference years were taken the latest one being 1983. Explanation were also given on the compilation and computation of certain aggregates such as savings, national income and so on.

106. New activities were included in the BNE as and when they appeared.

Use of indices of demographic, social and related economic statistics in planning (USSR experience) (Item 7 (c))

107. The document WG/DSS/87.13 was introduced by (1) the Deputy Chairman, USSR State Committee on Statistics (2) the Deputy Head of the Department, State Planning Comittee of the USSR and (3) the Head, Department of Integrated Statistics and Statistical Methodology, USSR State Committee on Statistics.

108. The speakers said that the USSR attached great importance to demographic, social and related statistics in the preparation of the country's development plans. They pointed out that the demographic and social variables were fully integrated in the country's micro-economic framework and the targets set for the various social indicators had to be met. The ready availability of indicators provided signals for performance in economy in such areas as labour resources and their utilization, the share of different sectors in the economy, balances in the economy, the achievements in the fulfilment of socialist objectives and so on.

109. The integration of social statistics in the planning exercise in the USSR context would have to take into account:

(i) the requirement for the country to accelerate production along socialist lines;

(ii) the peculiarities of the various activities and the regions; and

(iii) the need to allow for quantitative and qualitative measurement.

110. The USSR was attempting to improve further on the extent and quality of the social indices, and in particular improvements were being brought about in inter-regional comparison. Sample surveys were being conducted to collect data for research and socio-economic reforms.

111. The participants spoke of the endeavour of the African countries to improve their social data collection capabilities. They noted the wide experience of the USSR in this field and expressed their wish to learn more on this subject through closer collaboration with the USSR State Committee on Statistics. The role of scientific organizations in the elaborationaand implementation of programmes for the collection of data on various social aspects was highlighted. The issue of periodicity for the collection of demographic and social statistics was also discussed.

Other business (agenda item 8)

112. Under this item, some participants required that all background documents should be sent to participants some days before the meeting. It was replied that it was practically impossible due to the delay of the pouch. The representative of the secretariat indicated that some documents prepared by ECA have been pouched to participants three weeks before the meeting. However, he pointed out that all participants received the complete set of documents at their arrival in Moscow.

113. Some questions and queries were raised about the technical assistance given by USSR government and ECA. In response, the representative of the USSR government indicated the training programmes given by his country to developping countries and the administrative procedure for bilateral assistance. According to the ECA technical assistance, the representative of the Secretariat mentioned that the Statistics Division has always satisfied the requests from the countries in the field of national accounts, censuses, household surveys and data processing and will continue to do so in the future.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

114. The Working Group adopted its report, as amended during its discussions, for transmission to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

This summary of recommendations for African region should be considered with the report of the Working Group on Possible Approaches to the Integration of Demographic Social and Related Economic Statistics in Development Planning in Africa.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Data requirements in development planning

(i) African countries should take measures to strengthen statistical offices especially to stop the high turnover of statisticians. Making conditions of service attractive for them were recommended.

(ii) They should accelerate their process of collection and utilization of demographic and social statistics for planning purposes.

(iii) It is emphesized that the protection of environment was a global problem to which all African countries should participate, thus, the need to have a common approach to the problem. It is recommended that due attention should be given to the issue of environmental statistics and to their inclusion in the planning process.

(iv) A work programme which assessed the availability as well as the need for statistics required for development planning should be utilized. In this endeavour, it is also recommended that a closer collaboration and a continuing dialogue should be maintained between planners and statisticians and/or planning offices and statistical offices.

2. Co-ordination in the development of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics for planning

(a) System of data collection

(i) The needs to initiate action to develop a system of socio-economic indicators were emphasized and to harmonize their systems of data collection in particular when data were from different sources.

(ii) It is recommended that collaboration between producers of data should be reinforced with a view to harmonize as far as possible their concept, definitions and classifications used in various surveys.

(iii) It is also recommended that ECA should initiate action to review progress in the implementation of Lagos Plan of Action and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action in the fields of demographic and social statistics.

(b) Data processing

It is recommended that:

(i) Statisticians should be given training in modern data processing techniques in order to allow them to operate micro-computers and if possible mini-computers.

(ii) ECA should assist and reinforce its assistance in various areas such as the selection of computer equipment appropriate for the needs of African countries, the exchange of information among African countries and the increase of ECA training programme and advisory missions on the establishment of data banks.

(c) Institutional framework

(i) The creation of centralized statistical agencies is recommended as one important means of promoting co-ordination in the production of statistics among government ministries.

(ii) It is also recommended that ECA should initiate a study on the special problems posed by government ministries other than the central statistical agency and private organizations independently collecting statistics and suggest solutions which would facilitate co-ordination of concept, classification, definition and methodology.

3. Applications of integrated demographic, social and economic variables in planning

(i) Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) could be a good instrument for the integration of demographic and social considerations in the planning exercice.

(ii) It is re-emphasized that African countries should establish a social data base and improve their data collection capability.

(iii) It is recommended that ECA should continue its efforts to disseminate the SAM among the member States.

ANNEX II

EVALUATION OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. The completed 18 evaluation forms indicate that the majority of participants were satisfied with the organization, content and recommendations of the meeting.

2. Explicitly almost all participants reported that they were given enough notice and adequate information on the objectives of the Working Group, and that the direction of the meeting and the timetable were just right. However, they suggested that all background documents should be sent to participants some days before the meeting.

3. Most of participants classified the presentation of the topics as very good or good but they suggested that greater emphasis should be put on work done in the African region. One participant reported that the content of the documentation was oriented only for the requirements of governmental statisticians and planners. Suggestions were put forward about issues which were not on the agenda and not discussed during the meeting, namely:

   (i) he practical mechanism of the integration through a case study; and

   (ii) the use of micro-computer for small statistical activities.

   So, the duration of the meeting should be extended to allow questions and discussion on these issues and also to give the opportunity to the participants to visit the statistical office of the host country and to see how it functions.

4. The participants identified the lack of financial resources and the lack of computer equipments as the greatest problems in putting into practice in their respective countries the recommendations of the Working Group.

5. Finally, all the participants raised the weakness of the translation and the interpretation during the meeting and the lack of interpreters outside of the working hours which made life rather difficult.